

**THE GHOST AND MOLLY MCGEE**

"NO REGERTS DAY"

525B-317 - Outline

Written by Paul Chang

**INT. NURSING HOME - DAY**

PATTY's birthday party is in full swing! Everyone's there -- except LINDA, who eagle-eyed viewers might spot in the b.g., looking in longingly through the window, no one noticing her.

MOLLY and SCRATCH enter, excited. Molly: "I can't wait to celebrate with Patty!" But her jaw drops when she sees a HUGE PILE OF GIFTS. Molly is horrified: "But-- the invitation said no gifts! I didn't bring anything!" She whips out the invitation as proof. Scratch: "Everyone knows you still have to bring a gift! It's just polite. I mean I assumed you of all people would know that but here you are, empty-handed! Honestly - so embarrassing" Molly: "I trusted this card! Why would an inanimate object lie to me like this?!" Molly is normally a GREAT gift giver - it's one of her best qualities! She can't NOT give a gift! But what's she going to do now?!

DING DING DING! The cake (absolutely chockablock with candles) is paraded through the party and lands in front of Patty. She's so glad she can celebrate her birthday surrounded by the *most* important people in her life. And if she's learned one thing over her many birthdays, it's that you gotta make the most of your time here on earth... And so, her birthday wish is to complete her No Regerts list! She pulls out a scroll, which is so long it rolls out of the room. She's running out of space for candles on her cake (literally every square inch has a candle in it) and wants to make sure she lives life to the fullest with the time she has left.

Molly's arm shoots up, volunteering: "I'll help you finish that list, Patty!" She whispers to Scratch: "This can be our gift to her!" Scratch: "Our gift? I brought a scented candle! It's a three-wicker, too. Some say that's above and beyond, but I say nothing is too good for Patty." Molly freaks out that even Scratch brought a nice gift - she NEEDS to keep her rep as the best gift giver! Scratch concedes this would be a pretty good gift: "I may not have lived my life to the fullest... but maybe we can help someone else live theirs. Also, I see "win a pie eating contest" on that list, and I never say no to pie."

**INT. NURSING HOME - LATER - DAY**

Patty plays a DOUBLE BASS as Molly turns the pages and conducts, and Scratch doo-wops unseen.

Patty smiles: "I've always wanted to learn to play the double bass! It's *twice* the bass!" Molly checks the item off the list, happy to be helping Patty fulfill her birthday wish. First one down! Now onto the rest of the list...

**SONGBURST: "NO REGERTS."** In an upbeat, poppy tune, Molly and Scratch help Patty check off item after item (**NOTE:** in these beats, Linda lurks in the background, unseen by the trio):

-- Patty goes treasure-diving in the lake as Molly guides her from a boat with a METAL DETECTOR -- Patty dives down and emerges with a NECKLACE! Scratch wrestles a HUGE FISH, keeping it away from an oblivious Patty. Molly checks it off the list.

-- Molly (and Scratch) provide solemn emotional support as Patty confesses to Elbert that she sometimes cheats at checkers. He shakes his fist angrily. "Rigged!" Molly checks it off the list.

-- Molly cheers Patty on as she competes in a PIE-EATING CONTEST. Scratch eats her backlog of pies, so she wins. Molly checks it off the list.

-- Molly holds up BUCKETS OF PAINT as Patty flings paint a la Jackson Pollock, making a huge ABSTRACT ART PIECE. Scratch claps, impressed by a fellow artist. Molly checks it off the list.

-- Molly and Scratch see that the SIGN-UP SHEET for the Brighton Dance-a-thon is full! Scratch gives Molly a pen and she draws another line, on which Patty and Bobby write their names, signing up for the competition. Patty and Bobby practice their dance moves and Molly and Scratch hi-five as we **END SONGBURST**.

#### **INT. NURSING HOME - LATER - DAY**

Molly is thrilled with their progress -- at this rate Patty will be regret-free by the end of the day! ...But that makes Patty nervous for some reason: "Oh did I not tell you? I got a BUNCH more regrets to get through..." She hurriedly writes more items on the list: "Charm a snake! Buy a zoo! Win a pie eating contest!"

Molly raises an eyebrow: "We already did that one." (Scratch slaps a hand over her mouth: "No we didn't! Don't you take this from me!") Patty: "Well let's do it again!" Molly frowns, suspicious: "It kinda seems like you don't want to get to the bottom of your No Regerts List..." Patty is nervous: "Whaaaa?! That's ridiculous!"

Patty rips the bottom of the list off and runs out. "Come on, we got a snake to find and then charm!" But she's not fooling Molly: "Patty is *definitely* avoiding the final item... In order for this to be the best gift possible, we need to get to the bottom of bottom of the list!"

Then she notices that Patty's left a trail of footprints in paint from the abstract art piece they did earlier. Molly and Scratch follows them outside to...

#### **EXT. NURSING HOME - MOMENTS LATER - DAY**

The footprints end at the dumpster. Molly isn't looking forward to dumpster diving, but Scratch dives right in. He emerges with a BOX (and a day old banana)! They open it to find Patty's memories with Linda: photos of them together, birthday cards... and the torn item from the bottom of the list, which reads: *make nice with Linda*.

Molly realizes: Patty is still hurt that her best friend betrayed her by keeping her and Bobby apart all those years ago -- and can't bring herself to forgive Linda! Scratch: "I mean, can you blame her? I'm pro-grudge. I say take it to the grave! Past the grave! Really commit!" But Molly is adamant: "Patty said no regrets! We can't leave any regrets regreted! If we don't finish this list, then I didn't give her a gift! We cannot let that happen, Scratch! I cannot be a 'no gifter'!" Scratch: "I mean, it kinda seems like you shoulda gotten in on that candle when you had the chance--" Molly gives him a Look and he acquiesces.

#### **INT. NURSING HOME - LATER - DAY**

Molly and Scratch sit across from Linda sadly playing checkers against herself. She says Patty hasn't spoken to her since the incident. Patty said she wasn't ready to make nice yet, but they'd "have words later"... However, later hasn't come. All Linda wants is the chance to apologize -- she knows what she did was completely wrong. She was a dumb teenager scared to lose her best friend -- she panicked and wrote Bobby the fake note. She instantly regretted it and knew it was the worst mistake of her life. She swore she was going to come clean the next day... but she put it off and the next day became the next week, which became next month, which became a lifetime... She didn't want to hurt Patty but she betrayed her out of cowardice.

Molly can see Linda is genuinely remorseful and says she'll go talk to Patty. Patty will definitely listen to reason!

**INT. NURSING HOME - LATER - DAY**

But when Molly mentions Linda to Patty... Patty acts as if she didn't hear her. Completely ignores any mention of Linda. Just ices her right out. The only hint that she heard is an eye twitch, then she moves right on. "Excuse me, I got to get ready for the Dance-athon with Bobby!" She storms off.

After she leaves, Bobby pokes his head in, checking that the coast is clear, then enters. "Don't bother, kids. Patty is an expert at avoiding things she doesn't want to deal with." But Molly thinks she DOES want to deal with it -- she shows him the last item on Patty's No Regerts list. How is Patty going to cross it off if she keeps ignoring her?

Bobby hates seeing Patty so unhappy, and it's even harder when she refuses to admit she's unhappy! He never wanted to come between Patty and her best friend but doesn't want Patty to regret this feud for the rest of her life! Molly: "So will you help us?" Bobby is determined: "Anything for Pattycake."

**INT. CARIBOU CLUB - LATER**

The Caribou Club is set up for the Dance-a-thon. Linda enters and Molly runs up to her: "Thanks for coming Linda, you're a life-saver! I need a new dance partner now that Ollie's pulled a hammy!" (**REVEAL:** Ollie faking his injury: "Ow, my hammy! Oh wait, I mean, my other hammy!") Linda reluctantly agrees to be Molly's dance partner but they're gonna need to stay outta Patty's way... Molly smirks.

The Dance-a-thon begins: remember, no sitting down! Last couple dancing wins! QUICK CUTS of Patty/Bobby & Molly/Linda progressing through each round of the Dance-a-thon with various styles of dancing. Patty and Bobby disco! Molly and Linda flamenco! Scratch possesses Patty and Bobby's legs and makes them do a Riverdance! Then he stops Molly and Linda them from drooping when they get tired.

The judges are wowed! All the other dance partners (PAM and MS. ROOP, MOM and DAD, etc.) are eliminated until Patty/Bobby and Molly/Linda are the only two teams left in the finals.

**INT. CARIBOU CLUB - LATER - DAY**

The climactic final dance battle is about to begin! Patty and Bobby walk onto the floor to face off against Molly and Linda. Patty is confident she and Bobby are gonna win. Molly doesn't even have a partner! (Linda: "Uh, hello, right here?" But Patty turns her head away)

The music starts... and then Bobby nods to Molly across the floor. He does a spin move and then fakes injury. "Ow, my hammy! Patty I can't go on!" Patty is distraught: "But we're so close to winning!" That's when Molly flings Linda into Bobby's place! Patty catches a surprised Linda, by reflex.

The judges look at each other -- a last-minute dance partner switch? Unorthodox but they'll allow it! (To keep them in the competition, Bobby and Molly now pair up)

Patty grits her teeth -- the only way to cross off this regret is to dance with Linda! Molly: "And maybe you cross this one off your list as well?" She hands "make nice with Linda" to Patty who scowls. She doesn't like underhanded tricks, but she likes losing even less!

As they dance an upbeat, energetic dance off a la *Grease*, Patty and Linda finally have the conversation they've put off for too long. Linda tries to apologize, but Patty spins away saying she's still so hurt and angry about what Linda did. Linda slides on her knees to Patty's feet -- she apologizes and says there's no excuse for her actions. And she accepts if Patty can't forgive her, but she wants her to know how deeply sorry she is.

Patty can see the regret in Linda's eyes, and is touched. She pulls Linda in, and they spin in the middle of the floor. (Molly and Bobby sit down now, effectively ending the competition but Patty is now too wrapped up in the convo to notice.) Patty would have a completely different life if Linda didn't keep her and Bobby apart! ...But she doesn't regret the life she has now. It's been a great one. And the truth is she misses her best friend. She's finally ready to forgive and make nice. The dance ends with Linda holding Patty triumphantly above her head a la *Dirty Dancing*!

The judges are astounded! 10 out of 10 for dance technique, and 11 out of 10 for emotional catharsis! Patty and Linda win the Dance-a-thon! They hug, triumphant, as they get their medals.

Molly and Scratch tear up as Patty tapes her final regret back onto her list, and crosses it off. Molly pats herself on the back: "Another en-happified birthday girl. You've done it again Molly McGee. Best. Gift. Ever." Scratch: "You didn't even wrap it!" Molly: "YOU CAN'T WRAP AN EXPERIENCE SCRATCH."

**END OF EPISODE.**